

DC Bicycle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 6, 2002

Members in attendance:

Rudi Schreiber
James Koski
Chris Craig
Amy Nevel
Conrad Smith
Lyn Stoesen
Bill Schultheiss
Lt. Patrick Burke
Raymon Murchison
Jim Sebastian
Jacque Patterson
Meedie Bardonille
Harry Jaffe

Quorum Call

A quorum was reached shortly after 6:00pm.

Mr. Schreiber took a minute to talk about the bike racks being installed in his building and other buildings managed by the same company. He also said he used the bike racks on the Metrobuses for the first time, with success.

Approval of Minutes

The September meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Bike Master Plan Kick-Off

Tammy Sufi of Sprinkle Consulting (SCI) introduced the project team and gave an overview of the planning process for the update of the Bicycle Master Plan. She said the BAC is a critical part of the process.

The consulting team includes:

SCI-Prime Consultant
WABA-public outreach, existing conditions report
Gorove/Slade-data collection, engineering

TransManagement-policy review

Steve Spindler-cartography and website (map examples provided in room)

Ms. Sufi and Jennifer Toole, principal at SCI, are managing the project. Jennifer managed the Philadelphia bike plan.

SCI's has experience across the country and especially along the East Coast. They have done some city plans and some state plans. SCI has also done a lot of general bike/ped research work for FHWA and others.

The last DC plan was done about 25 years ago. It's time for an update. What are the opportunities? Nationally, 40% of all trips are less than 2 miles. More than 35% of DC households do not own a motor vehicle. 36% of the region's bike trips are in DC.

SCI will brief the BAC on the plan at each bi-monthly meeting. There will also be 8 public workshops (one in each ward) this spring and summer. Mr. Sebastian said he hoped the BAC members could help organize ward-based bike rides.

Questions after the presentation:

Mr. Schreiber asked about bike counts - before and after counts when bike lanes are put in -- is it increasing bicyclists? Will all wards be represented and counted? A goal of the plan must be to make all areas of DC bike accessible.

Mr. Jaffe asked about Philadelphia and how the plan led to the striping of lanes. The DC process will be similar to Philadelphia. Mr. Sebastian stated that DC will continue to stripe lanes but this plan will provide a comprehensive network.

Questions from the crowd:

What about connecting different parts of the city, i.e., Kennedy Center and the Mall? Ms. Sufi replied that yes, they will be getting feedback on these types of situations. Multi-jurisdictional issues will be addressed.

Ms. Nevel asked about bike parking as a part of the plan. Yes, the plan will cover this and will look at encouraging parking in private development.

BAC members gave comments - Bob Schneider of SCI took notes on a flip chart.

SCI has worked on both the NOVA and Maryland plans, making planning for connections easier.

Mr. Schreiber asked about bridge crossings in the Philly plan and how that is comparable to DC. Ms. Sufi said that would be discussed in future meetings.

Ellen Jones of WABA mentioned the importance of implementation. Spread the word and get people involved to get momentum and support for implementation.

Ms. Sufi said the website will be up and running soon and will be linked to the City's website.

South Capitol Street Bridge Problems

Jeanie Osborne passed around photos of the horrible conditions of the trails on an around the bridge and gave a Power Point presentation. One big problem is not only the condition of the path but the fact that the City's maintenance contractor isn't doing its job sweeping and cleaning. Additionally there are old lamp foundations and curbs that are obstacles.

Mr. Jaffe asked about the how the South Capitol Street path fits into the city's system of sidewalks and paths. Mr. Sebastian stated that maintenance is the city's responsibility as a part of the street system. The bike plan will help identify maintenance as a priority. The city aims to meet proper standards. There are constraints due to the age of the facilities, but it is the goal of the city to maintain all sidewalks and paths.

People should call 727-1000, the mayor's call center so that these situations are noted and logged.

Mr. Murchison suggested that we make a formal note of the poor job being done by the maintenance contractor responsible for cleaning the path. Mr. Jaffe seconded this idea and offered to draft a letter for BAC consideration.

South Capitol Street Study

Phil Braum of Parsons Brinkerhoff gave an overview of the corridor study and provided two handouts to attendees. The Congressionally requested study will look at a wide corridor around South Capitol Street from Independence Avenue to Anacostia. It will consider a new bridge, an additional bridge, or a tunnel at the Anacostia River.

Mr. Jaffe asked what prompted this study. Mr. Braum said it was the District's Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and support from Steny Hoyer (Maryland US Rep). The last public meeting in October had a strong showing of cyclists.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Schultheiss passed out Safety subcommittee meeting minutes and suggested that all subcommittees write minutes. Efforts like Mr. Jaffe's bridge letter should lead to more interaction among BAC members between meetings.

Mr. Sebastian made a plug for the DDOT bike program website, which has been recently updated (www.ddot.dc.gov).

Audience members asked about the possibilities for the public that attend the BAC meetings. One idea was getting people more involved in lobbying on our issues. Another was to help get the public involved in the bike plan.

As 8:00 approached, Mr. Sebastian quickly mentioned that there are about a dozen neighborhood transportation studies taking place in the District. It's important that bikes are represented in these studies. Most of them are listed on the DDOT website (www.ddot.dc.gov).

Mr. Sebastian is sending out an email regarding bike lanes on North Carolina Avenue on Capitol Hill - ANC6B. He will present the plans at the next ANC meeting.

Mr. Sebastian has reserved this same room and times for 2003 meetings. Jim will email out the dates.

Rudi mentioned that members appointed for one year will have to contact their City Council members to get reappointed.

Mr. Jaffe asked about the DC budgeting process and where it stands for bikes. Mr. Sebastian mentioned that many bike items are included in the 2004 budget that was recently submitted to the CFO. (The 2003 DC budget has yet to be approved by Congress). Amy Nevel volunteered to work with Mr. Sebastian to put together a budget presentation for the BAC.

Ellen Jones mentioned the recreational trails committee, a federally-mandate committee that advises the city mainly on park trails. They are holding a meeting on Nov 19 in Oxon Run Park.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 8:00.